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Chairman: Mr. Ismael THAJEB (Indonesia).

AGENDA ITEM 33

Economic development of under-developed countries (A/5532) (continued):

(b) Activities of the United Nations in the field of industrial development: report of the Economic and Social Council (E/3781, annex VIII; A/5503, chap. IV; A/5534 and Add.1 and 2, A/5535 and Add.1-5 and Add.5/Corr.1; A/C.2/221, A/C.2/L.740 and Add.1 and 2) (continued)

1. Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) emphasized the interest which his country took in the industrial development of the less developed areas. The United States had provided them with more capital, both public and private, transferred to them more of its industrial technology and imported from them more processed and manufactured goods than any other nation. It intended to intensify those efforts, especially during the United Nations Development Decade.

2. Certainly, the industrialization process in the developing areas was still proceeding too slowly to result in any dramatic increase in per caput income. Yet it must be recognized that in recent years industrial growth in those areas had proceeded at a more rapid rate than ever before in the world's history, as could be seen from the remarkable progress achieved in several under-developed countries since the end of the Second World War.

3. In recent years, the member countries of ECAFE, excluding Japan, had been experiencing an industrial growth rate averaging about 9 per cent annually. Roughly the same rate prevailed in Africa and Latin America. On the continent of Africa, excluding South Africa, the output of manufactured goods had increased fivefold since 1938 and the current rate of increase was above that of the developed countries. Industrial growth in Africa was now proceeding more rapidly than it had done in Japan during that country's period of rapid expansion, between 1913 and 1938. Similarly,

exports of industrial goods from the developing countries had been multiplied by two and a half in fifteen years. That remarkable growth was due to the combined effect of several factors. First of all, no progress would have been possible without the efforts of the developing countries themselves.

4. The second factor had been the contribution of private investors. Without repeating what had already been said on that subject, he wished to point out that, in 1962, private investment in the developing countries by the Western countries and Japan had amounted to \$1,600 million, a very large proportion of which had been directly related to industry. In the same year, goods and services produced in foreign countries by enterprises involving private investment from the United States had amounted to \$28,000 million.

5. Thirdly, there had been, in recent years, a massive increase in the amount of financial and technical assistance in industrial development from external public sources. By 1962, such assistance had amounted to well over \$1,200 million, of which the United States had provided \$500 million. Those figures included neither the assistance provided by regional institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, nor the pre-investment work being undertaken by the Special Fund, nor the technical assistance rendered under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Nor did they include the assistance that had been provided in recent years by the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe. Mention should also be made of the contribution of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which had extended loans totalling more than \$5,000 million for the development of industry, natural resources and transport. Lastly, in order to channel capital to smaller business firms in the developing countries, the International Bank and other institutions, as well as the United States Government, had been actively engaged in helping those countries to establish industrial development banks.

6. Having made those points, he wished to reiterate that his country was not at all satisfied with the present rate of industrial growth in the developing countries and was anxious to see the United Nations family of agencies play a still more effective role in speeding it up.

7. First of all, more capital was required. The sources of capital were many and varied: private investment, assistance by the developed countries through bilateral programmes, multilateral financial agencies such as the International Bank, IDA and IFC. Some members of the Committee favoured the establishment of a United Nations capital development fund, but his delegation did not support such a measure. In any event, it was clear that a new organization did not any event, it was clear that a new organization for industrial development, whether separate from the United Nations or within it, could not conceivably constitute a new source of financial assistance.

8. A second very important form of assistance was the provision of trained manpower, at all levels of skill, for the developing countries. A large proportion of such training was being provided under bilateral programmes. In 1962, the United States Government had brought 1,600 persons from developing countries to the United States or other countries for special training in industry or mining. Within the United Nations system, that type of training was being provided out of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme, with the ILO and UNESCO in the operating roles. The training functions now being performed by those two specialized agencies could not be transferred to a new industrial development organization without waste and duplication.

9. A third factor which was vital to industrial development was the identification and harnessing of natural resources. The first of those functions was one of the primary activities of the Special Fund, carried on in conjunction with the Resources and Transport Branch of the United Nations, which was doing particularly good work in that field. The harnessing of natural resources required substantial capital, of which he had already indicated the principal sources.

10. A fourth vital factor in industrial development was planning, both national and sectoral. The United Nations was the natural focal point for assistance in that area, working through the regional economic commissions and their planning institutes, either recently established or in process of establishment. The International Bank, too, had on many occasions provided under-developed countries with invaluable assistance in planning. In Latin America, under the Alliance for Progress, a committee of nine, assisted by tripartite teams of experts from ECLA, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank was reviewing proposed national plans. The Special Fund was engaged in feasibility studies which were essential for sectoral planning, and should do more on those lines. Its Managing Director had invited Member States to submit more requests for that type of aid.

11. His delegation had mentioned all those activities, not out of fear that a proposal might be made to transfer them to a new industrial development organization, but rather to emphasize that industrial development was not the type of activity which could be centralized in one agency so far as assistance was concerned. In that respect, it was wholly unlike, for example, agriculture, public health or atomic energy. That characteristic of industrial development was further high-lighted by the reports submitted to the Secretary-General by the various specialized agencies (A/5535 and Add.1-5 and Add.5/Corr.1); his delegation had been deeply impressed by the amount and variety of their work in fields directly or indirectly related to industrial development.

12. Again, it was inconceivable that any one agency could effectively co-ordinate those activities. Neither the Economic and Social Council nor the General Assembly had yet been able to find a satisfactory solution to the problems of co-ordinating United Nations activities in the fields of technical assistance, training, research and pre-investment; it would be vain to hope that a new agency would be more successful in such a complex field as industrial development. Such an attempt as "vertical" co-ordination might well undermine the present co-ordination structure that had been built up with such difficulty and would run

counter to the measures now being taken to relate assistance programmes to balanced national plans of economic and social development.

13. As could be seen from the Secretary-General's report on the activities of the Centre for Industrial Development (A/5534), the Centre was doing remarkable work. Under the enlightened guidance of the Commissioner for Industrial Development, the Centre was undoubtedly destined to make a valuable contribution. His delegation was convinced that the existing organizational structure had not yet had time to prove its worth and that any decision to alter it would be premature. Furthermore, the Centre used funds from the regular budget of the United Nations. It would therefore be risky to transfer its functions to a new organization, of a character yet to be determined, for which financial support was entirely uncertain.

14. Those were extremely complex questions, on which hasty decisions should be avoided. It would be desirable for the problem to be given further detailed study by the Committee for Industrial Development, which should submit a report on the subject to the Economic and Social Council. That procedure would be in keeping with Council resolution 969 (XXXVI). The brief report submitted by the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Industrial Development Activities of the United Nations System (E/3781, annex VIII) did not seem sufficiently comprehensive or specific for the General Assembly to take a decision at the present stage, when the Committee for Industrial Development had been unable to do so. Moreover, the report on the activities of the Centre for Industrial Development, which was a very important document, had been available neither to the Advisory Committee of Experts nor to the Committee for Industrial Development.

15. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution on activities in the field of industrial development (A/C.2/L.740 and Add.1 and 2) proposed that the General Assembly should decide in principle to establish an organization for industrial development. Such a decision in principle would not settle the vital question of whether the new organization should be a specialized agency or a new body of some kind within the United Nations. Until that question had been settled, the proposed decision in principle would be an empty one. However, it might be regarded as a vote of no confidence in the Centre for Industrial Development.

16. The need for further detailed studies had been cogently stressed by the representative of Mexico, who had made several proposals (929th meeting). The idea was that the Secretary-General should be requested, while the studies were in progress, to strengthen the Centre for Industrial development administratively and institutionally and to submit recommendations on the existing institutional structure to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-seventh session, taking into account the conclusions of the Advisory Committee of Experts. Those were extremely sound recommendations.

17. As to the amendment submitted by Ghana and Nigeria (A/C.2/L.769), it would be recalled that the Advisory Committee of Experts had taken the view that the proposed organization should concentrate mainly on the manufacturing sector. His delegation shared that view and hoped that the sponsors of the amendment would agree to withdraw it.

18. He had been glad to note the spirit of co-operation displayed by the sponsors of the draft resolution. In

view of that, he was sure they would agree to take into account the other amendments submitted, particularly those of the United Kingdom (A/C.2/L.772) and Sweden (A/C.2/L.774). Similarly, the Tunisian amendment (A/C.2/L.773), with the change proposed by France (A/C.2/L.775), afforded a firm basis for discussion which could produce a compromise acceptable to everyone.

19. Mr. SIMHA (India) expressed gratification at the spirit in which the members of the Committee had taken up the draft resolution. Everyone recognized the crucial importance of the role played by industrial development in economic growth and the dynamic nature of the industrialization process.

20. Opinions differed, however, regarding the practical measures to be taken. Some representatives, including the United Kingdom representative, accused the sponsors of the draft resolution of setting their sights too high. That was not so. The draft resolution as it stood was comprehensive, clear and relatively modest in scope. As recent history proved, some goals which, even a few decades previously, might have been described in some quarters as fanciful had been reached and even left far behind. The economic and industrial rise of such countries as the United Kingdom, France and, above all, the United States was an eloquent example and should suffice to prove the futility of any dogmatism on that subject. In any case, the setting of ambitious goals was one of the prerequisites of rapid progress.

21. Efforts at the national level, particularly in the creation of markets and the mobilization of savings, were obviously an essential factor in the process of industrialization. However, the under-developed countries had very limited domestic markets. They needed to export their products and attached great importance to the development of international trade. They were thus fully aware of the interdependence of the factors involved in economic and social development. However, they also knew that industrialization was the most dynamic factor and that it very often conditioned development in other sectors of the economy. In the United Kingdom, for example, as in many other countries, the development of agriculture had followed, as one of its consequences, the development of the industrial sector. Similarly, in order to expand its agriculture, India needed fertilizers and agricultural machinery—in other words, industrial products.

22. Furthermore, the highly developed countries stood to gain from the industrialization of the developing countries. Their industries were now specializing in the manufacture of increasingly complex products, and it would help them to rely on the less developed countries for the production of the simple goods and services which required less advanced technology.

23. United Nations activities in the field of industrial development, although useful, were inadequate to meet the needs of the developing countries. The study entitled The United Nations Development Decade: Proposals for Action (E/3613 and Corr.1 and 2) stated that, if the target of an annual increase of 5 per cent in aggregate incomes was to be achieved, manufacturing output in the developing countries would have to rise by 130 per cent. That figure showed the magnitude of the task. It was true that remarkable progress had already been made in some countries, but a decision must now be taken on the best means of reaching the over-all target.

24. He had been surprised by the criticisms of the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts. Some delegations had expressed regret that the Advisory Committee had not studied in detail all the obstacles to industrialization and the measures that should be taken to overcome them. However, that had clearly not been the task entrusted to the Advisory Committee by the Economic and Social Council. The Committee's terms of reference had been precise and limited: to study the problem of industrial development from the institutional standpoint. Its members, composed of experts from under-developed and industrialized countries, had performed that task efficiently and submitted a unanimous report. They had taken into account all the facts at their disposal, including the activities of the Centre for Industrial Development and the Commissioner for Industrial Development. Hence, it could not be claimed that their conclusions were hasty or premature. If the experts had been able, in the short time allowed them, to make a detailed study of all aspects of industrialization, they would certainly have submitted a more comprehensive report. The sponsors, in their turn, would have submitted a more specific draft resolution to the Second Committee. As things were, they had endeavoured to produce a highly flexible proposal and had consequently been criticized for leaving it too vague.

25. The sponsors had not wanted to propose rigid solutions: their aim was to explore, with all members of the Second Committee, the organizational measures required to meet the needs of the developing countries as efficiently as possible. They did not all agree on the nature of the organization to be established, but they were unanimous in considering that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) proposed by the Advisory Committee of Experts in paragraph 43 of its report (E/3781, annex VIII) represented a bare minimum.

26. Under operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the view of the Advisory Committee of Experts that the present institutional framework of the United Nations activities in the field of industrial development was not satisfactory. There was general agreement on that point. There was no contradiction between operative paragraphs 2 and 3. The decision to establish an organization for industrial development was a decision in principle, while paragraph 3 called for a detailed study and recommended the Economic and Social Council to instruct the Committee for Industrial Development to take into account the views expressed at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly. That was quite logical. The sponsors would, however, carefully consider the proposed amendments and would take them into account as far as possible. With regard to the amendments submitted by the Swedish delegation (A/C.2/L.774), he did not see how the Secretary-General would be able to take the views of the developed and under-developed countries into consideration in the study requested of him. The Committee would first have to take a decision on the principle involved.

27. The question of the name to be given to the new organization was completely secondary. He recalled that the representative of the ILO, who had raised the point, had also expressed his opinion on certain amendments, and he did not know to what extent that was appropriate.

28. He was glad to note that many delegations had approved the idea of an international symposium, as

mentioned in paragraph 4. However, a certain number of developed countries thought that such a symposium was neither desirable nor necessary and that it would be preferable to hold regional or inter-regional symposia, as suggested in the fifth United Kingdom amendment (A/C.2/L.772). He did not understand why there should be any objection to an international symposium. Like any complex question, industrial development required exchanges of views at the international as well as at the regional and inter-regional level. Moreover, the draft resolution did not call for the definite convening of a conference but merely for consultations and studies on the advisability of holding an international symposium.

29. As it would take some time to achieve the objectives of the draft resolution, it was important that maximum use should be made of the Centre of Industrial Development in the interim, that its resources should be increased and that the Commissioner for Industrial Development should be given greater authority. It was obvious, moreover, that the Centre for Industrial Development should not be concerned solely with research, but should also consider problems of implementation; in that connexion, its Technological Division, which was the most important, should be enlarged. It was to be hoped that activities in that field would be intensified under the guidance of the new Commissioner for Industrial Development.

30. While the sponsors of the draft resolution were prepared to accept compromise solutions, it must be borne in mind that the aim was to increase industrial output by 130 per cent. He recalled that the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts had been prepared with the unanimous approval of its members. He referred also to the study entitled Planning for Economic Development (A/5533/Rev.1), from which it could be seen that the present rate of development was far from sufficient and that, if the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade were to be attained, it would be necessary to redouble both national and international efforts. United Nations bodies might review the way in which their programmes were currently implemented with a view to improving their integration with national development plans. In addition, although it was often emphasized that care should be taken to avoid a proliferation of international institutions, he believed that there was an increasing need for new institutions which would be very active at the national and international levels. Otherwise, it was highly unlikely that the objectives of the Development Decade could be reached.

31. Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy) noted that, while there was complete agreement on the importance of industrialization for the economic growth of developing countries, there were certain divergences of view regarding the role of the United Nations and the way in which it should carry out its activities in that field.

32. The Italian delegation fully approved of the reasons underlying the draft resolution and of its objectives, namely, to strengthen United Nations action in the field of industrial development. However, in its present form, the draft resolution did not clearly indicate the sponsors' aim or take into consideration the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts, on whose conclusions it was based. The United Nations bodies concerned with industrial development had been established too recently to warrant a change in structure, and it was essential to avoid taking measures the sole effect of which would be to disrupt the existing system.

In addition, although the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts was a useful document, its conclusions could not be considered as final. More detailed studies should be carried out, particularly on the basis of the experience which existing bodies would certainly acquire. That was why, although the Italian delegation was prepared to support any measure to intensify their activities, it considered that it would be premature to change the present structure; it did not, however, exclude such a possibility in the future. Moreover, while the question of institutions was an important one, it should not obscure the importance of the technical assistance and pre-investment activities currently undertaken by the competent bodies.

33. He regretted that the representative of India had not given a clear indication in his statement of the extent to which the sponsors of the draft resolution were prepared to take account of the proposed amendments.

34. Sub-paragraph (b) of the eighth preambular paragraph did not give proper emphasis to the specialized agencies or entirely reflect the views expressed by the Advisory Committee of Experts in their report. The United Kingdom amendment to that preambular paragraph (A/C.2/L.772) might make it possible to reach unanimous agreement. The Italian delegation also supported the United Kingdom amendment to operative paragraph 2 as giving it greater flexibility. It was also in favour of the Tunisian amendment (A/C.2/L.773); the French sub-amendment (A/C.2/L.775) did not appear to change its substance. With regard to the first of the Swedish amendments (A/C.2/L.774), he recalled that he himself had already stressed the need for further studies. In any case, it would be well if the Secretary-General were requested to consider the possibility of other solutions. The Italian delegation was also prepared to accept the second Swedish amendment.

35. In conclusion, he appealed to the sponsors of the draft resolution to take the proposed amendments into consideration with a view to arriving at a text that could be adopted unanimously.

36. Mr. USHIBA (Japan) said that his delegation appreciated the work of the Advisory Committee of Experts, but thought that its report lent itself to different interpretations on a number of points. Several representatives, referring to paragraph 30 of the report, had stated that the lack of promotional work by the United Nations at the field level was the main reason why more funds were not allotted to United Nations bodies concerned with industrialization. But United Nations assistance was rendered only upon requests from the recipient countries. It was regrettable that the report did not analyse the reasons why there had been so few requests from developing countries in connexion with industrialization or manufacturing industries. In fact, only thirty-five Governments had replied to the questionnaire on industrial planning and development (E/C.5/24) which the Secretary-General had sent to Member States, pursuant to a decision taken at the first session of the Committee for Industrial Development. The report of the experts also mentioned the imbalance between the funds allotted to infrastructure and those allotted to manufacturing industries. In the opinion of the Japanese delegation, the priority for specific fields within national industrial development programmes should, of course, vary from country to country, according to the particular economic situation and stage of economic development.

37. In its conclusions and recommendations, the experts' report did not make it sufficiently clear why the Centre for Industrial Development should be abolished and replaced by a new organization before its work had been carefully evaluated. The Japanese delegation thought, like the Italian representative, that such action would be premature. Moreover, it did not understand why a new body should have local representatives, what its activities would be, or why it would expect to receive sufficient voluntary contributions which had not been forthcoming to the existing organization.

38. Hence, the Japanese delegation found it difficult to fully endorse the views of the Advisory Committee of Experts. It was therefore in favour of deleting subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and also favoured the amendment to operative paragraph 1 proposed by Canada (931st meeting) and by the United Kingdom in document A/C.2/L.772. With regard to operative paragraphs 2 and 3, the delegation of Japan shared the opinions of the representatives of New Zealand, the Netherlands, Australia, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Although it had been in existence only a short time, the Centre had done much valuable research, and it would be inadvisable to make institutional changes before its work had been thoroughly studied. His delegation thought that the United Nations should, above all, endeavour to derive maximum advantage from the present structure by using the limited resources available to the full. In that regard, it attached great importance to the questionnaire which had been sent to Governments in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee for Industrial Development at its third session, because it provided a means of determining the needs of Member States and the priorities they gave to them, thus making it possible to guide the future activities of the United Nations. It was therefore important to study the replies to the questionnaire before proceeding to a decision on any structural change.

39. While reserving its comments on those views, his delegation also pointed out that the views expressed by the various specialized agencies (A/5535 and Add.1-5 and Add.5/Corr.1) should be given careful consideration. The Committee for Industrial Development should give them detailed study, in particular with a view to more effective co-ordination. It also agreed that an attempt should be made to ascertain the Secretary-General's views, including alternative solutions, on the question. The ILO representative had suggested that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination might be asked for its opinion. Actually, the latter had already expressed its views on the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts in paragraph 133 of its twenty-eighth report (E/3765), views which his delegation had fully supported at the third session of the Committee for Industrial Development. In view of the foregoing, his delegation would support the insertion of a new paragraph after operative paragraph 1, as the first Swedish amendment proposed (A/C.2/L.774). As far as operative paragraphs 2 and 3 were concerned, it also supported the second Swedish amendment as well as the suggestion of the United Kingdom representative. With regard to operative paragraph 4, as well as document A/C.2/L.769, his delegation supported the amendment and its approach proposed by the United Kingdom in document A/C.2/L.772.

40. He sincerely hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution would reconsider the amendments proposed and produce a final text which might be adopted unanimously, and he welcomed the willingness in that regard shown by the Indian representative.

(a) Planning for economic development: report of the Secretary-General (A/5533/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.744 and Add.1-4) (continued)

41. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) suggested that, in order to expedite the Committee's work, the draft resolution on planning for economic development (A/C.2/L.744 and Add.1-4) should be adopted immediately by acclamation, if there were no objections.

42. Mr. SOUSSANE (Morocco) and Mr. MINAI (Iran) supported the proposal, despite the fact that they had asked to speak on the item.

43. Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia) said he would be happy to support the suggestion. However, the Hungarian and Mexican representatives had made certain proposals (933rd meeting) that he had not been able to study in detail. He would therefore like to have a little more time in which to consult the other sponsors of the draft resolution.

(c) Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (E/3786, E/3798, A/5584, A/C.2/L.742/Rev.1) (continued)

44. Mr. CARRILLO (El Salvador) recalled that the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.742/Rev.1) had been submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 793 (XXX) on decentralization, which had been based on the recommendations and conclusions of the Council's Committee on Programme Appraisals.^{1/} In its resolution, the Council had drawn the attention of Governments to the advantage of fully using the facilities and services of the regional economic commissions and had requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to that end. At its most recent session, the Council, in resolution 955 (XXXVI), had taken note of the reports (E/3786 and E/3798), which were also mentioned in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. The first report described, in particular, the measures taken and the results achieved in the matter of decentralization and of strengthening the regional economic commissions in compliance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council; the others dealt with the last meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions to discuss matters of common interest, particularly regarding the operation of decentralized activities.

45. With the exception of paragraph 8 of the draft resolution and the fifth Sudanese amendment (A/C.2/L.763), the proposals before the Committee seemed to repeat the ideas and observations already expressed by the Council. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 955 (XXXVI), the Council invited the Secretary-General to explore the ways and means of expanding the economic and social activities of the United Nations Office in Beirut, including the possible creation of a technical assistance co-ordination unit in it. However, neither the draft resolution nor the amendments mentioned the concrete work already accomplished by the regional economic commissions, which was of great importance. It would therefore seem to be appropriate to re-

^{1/} Five-Year Perspective, 1960-1964 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60. IV. 14).

call that ECLA, as was indicated in paragraph 256 of the Council's report (A/5503), had recommended that the secretariat should concentrate its efforts on the preparation of studies intended for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. It had also requested the ECLA secretariat to hold a seminar prior to the Conference, with the aim of promoting more efficient preparation and fuller mutual knowledge of the problems of the countries of the region which were to be discussed at the Conference.

46. In conclusion, his delegation felt that it could vote for the draft resolution, subject to one observation. The wording of paragraph 3 should more accurately reflect the conclusions in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Question (A/5584). In paragraph 29 of that report, the Committee, while noting the progress achieved, had pointed out that the process of decentralization was still in its early stages and that much remained to be done.

47. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that his delegation had always considered the item before the Committee from the point of view of effectiveness. In that spirit, it had spoken out on various occasions in recent years to indicate what it considered useful, reasonable, or at times dangerous, tendencies. The results achieved seemed rather encouraging on the whole, and the establishment of closer and more frequent contacts among the various regional economic commissions, among the resident representatives, and lastly between the resident representatives and the secretariats of the regional economic commissions was a step in the right direction. The establishment of regional planning and development institutes, a highly useful measure, should keep pace with improved co-ordination, which implied the need for retaining some measure of central control.

48. In the circumstances, France favoured the draft resolution, subject to several observations. The mention of the United Nations Office in Beirut in paragraphs 5 and 6 had been prompted by the desire, already expressed in Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII), to ensure that States which were not members of any regional commission would receive the same benefits as they would receive through membership in such a commission. However, paragraph 5 made the text somewhat ambiguous since it seemed to place the Office, which would be a unit of the Secretariat, on the same footing as the regional economic commissions, which were deliberative bodies in which Member States were represented. The sponsors would be well advised to amend the wording of that paragraph to bring it more into line with past practice and with United Nations terminology, and he therefore suggested that the beginning of the paragraph might be reworded as follows:

"Confirms its conviction that all regional economic commissions, as the principal United Nations bodies in the economic and social fields in the various regions, as well as the United Nations Office in Beirut, have a special and increasing role ..."

The sponsors recommended in paragraph 6 the establishment of "a technical assistance co-ordination unit". The English text employed the word "unit", which had been used often by the Council and was usually translated into French by the word "service". Since the word used in the French text ("groupe") implied a body composed of government representatives, the French text should be amended in the way he had indicated.

49. As far as the amendments were concerned, his delegation had no objection to the proposal made at the

previous meeting that the text of the draft resolution should also make reference to General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI). The number of Sudanese amendments raised several problems. The first amendment was difficult to accept because one of the basic features of technical assistance was that the recipient Governments were responsible for technical assistance projects. The regional economic commissions could therefore act only in the case of regional projects, and the amendment should be modified accordingly in order to eliminate any possible doubt. His delegation had no basic objection to the other Sudanese amendments, but would prefer to state its position on them after hearing the reactions of the sponsors of the draft resolution. It wished to express its appreciation for their efforts and congratulated them on their initiative.

50. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia) congratulated the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had been so ably introduced by the Jordanian delegation (930th meeting). The Tunisian delegation endorsed the ideas which the sponsors had had in mind and would vote in favour of the proposal.

51. The question of the decentralization of United Nations activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions involved something like a contradiction, which was fortunately more apparent than real. Although the action of the regional commissions had to be made more effective by the provision of the necessary resources, it was essential that the principle of unity of action should not be endangered. The two panels of the diptych, however, supplemented each other, for what was intended was a continuous consultation, a corresponding delegation of powers in the interests of efficiency and, in brief, a true symbiosis. Decentralization was, of course, not an end in itself, but a technique, a method of strengthening the work of the United Nations.

52. With regard to the Ukrainian amendment (A/C.2/L.762), the desirability of giving the Eastern countries proper representation in a regional economic commission was evident; the commission's resources, particularly as regards staff, would thus be strengthened. However, although his delegation supported that idea, it could not agree to putting all regional economic commissions on the same footing.

53. The Secretariat documents referred to in the draft resolution dealt with the progress achieved in the last two years and justified a measure of optimism. However, in paragraph 25 of his report on decentralization (E/3786), the Secretary-General recommended the provision of technical assistance in a form intended to meet collective rather than individual needs of Governments, and it might be asked whether the current practice of employing resident representatives was conducive to the achievement of that purpose or whether a change should not be made. Resident representatives were tempted to attach particular importance to the projects of the country to which they were assigned, and it would be preferable to encourage Governments to submit collective projects rather than national programmes. Anyway, the regional economic commissions should take a still more active part in the evolution desired and in the activities of their region, and the example of ECLA was particularly encouraging. ECLA had contributed to the preparation and execution of a large number of projects designed to promote the economic development of its region; examples were

the establishment of a free-trade area and an inter-regional bank.

54. With regard to sub-regional offices, his delegation hoped that they would not be mere "post boxes", but active bodies, with the necessary technical and financial resources to play an effective part in the preparation and execution of projects in their region. The United Nations Office in Beirut must not be regarded as a new regional economic commission, and

nothing in the draft resolution warranted that view. The proposed technical assistance co-ordination unit should lead to a more efficient utilization of resources by ensuring the necessary co-ordination.

55. His delegation supported many of the suggestions contained in the Sudanese amendments (A/C.2/L.763), but thought that the third amendment might perhaps be better worded.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.